



July 30, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1332 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

The Public Lands Council (PLC), National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), American Sheep Industry Association (ASI), and Association of National Grasslands (ANG) would like to take this opportunity to express our support for H.R. 4776, *the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act*. This vital piece of legislation is a step forward for American innovation and allows us to highlight environmental stewardship practices while revitalizing current permitting standards.

PLC is the only national organization representing cattle and sheep producers who hold federal grazing permits working with 3 national affiliates and 27 state affiliate organizations; NCBA is the U.S. cattle industry's oldest and largest national trade association, representing 26,000 individual producers and the approximately 178,000 cattle producers who are members of the 44 state affiliate organizations who provide much of the nation's food supply; ASI has been the national trade organization representing the interests of more than 100,000 sheep producers located throughout the country who produce America's lamb and wool; ANG's mission is to protect, preserve, and improve National Grasslands for ranching families representing 4 states, 10 grazing districts and associations. Together we support the introduction and passage of the SPEED ACT to address key process improvements in application of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

NEPA has presented the agricultural industry with significant regulatory hurdles, placing financial burdens on farmers and ranchers across the country. Rather than a tool to ensure the protection of our environment, NEPA has become a discriminatory barrier for many traditional farms and ranches to undertake necessary projects for improvements. Currently, NEPA emphasizes exhaustive reports and litigation over practical conversations, often preventing the completion of private and public infrastructure projects vital to ranching operations.

Current NEPA permitting regulations are not just impacting large corporations and privately owned businesses; the historic process has hindered effective forest and rangeland management, thus increasing the risk of wildfires by delaying necessary mitigation efforts vital to public safety.

NEPA procedures divert essential resources towards wildfire suppression rather than supporting proactive forest and rangeland restoration practices.

Additionally, this legislation takes a much-needed step toward recognizing and incentivizing environmental stewardship. Livestock producers are not opponents of environmental stewardship; we are dedicated practitioners. By streamlining the NEPA permitting process, this bill ensures that producers who invest in infrastructure projects are not penalized. This piece of legislation ensures that agricultural operations can thrive while also protecting the environment for future generations. For too long, frivolous litigation has ensured halting projects and serving only as a roadblock to active management. The judicial reforms outlined in the legislation will address one of the biggest threats to efficient government process. While we support the ability of all Americans to redress their government, rampant frivolous litigation has allowed NEPA to be the bottleneck for activist litigants to target if they want to impede any number of projects.

By eliminating the cumbersome and lengthy process created by current NEPA regulations, this legislation places the power back into the hands of rural America by reducing bureaucratic barriers, ensuring sound science drives decision-making, and providing regulatory certainty for those affected by outdated and overly cumbersome NEPA regulations.

PLC, NCBA, ASI, and ANG appreciate this effort championed by Chairman Westerman and Congressman Golden and would greatly appreciate the Committee's consideration of this legislation. We wholeheartedly support the passage of this legislation and encourage swift action to move it forward. Its enactment will strengthen rural communities while ensuring that America's livestock producers can continue their essential role as stewards of our nation's natural resources and landscapes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We appreciate your support for meaningful NEPA reform and for your consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Public Lands Council<sup>1</sup>  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
American Sheep Industry Association  
Association of National Grasslands

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<sup>1</sup> Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, California Cattlemen's Association, California Wool Growers Association, Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Wool Growers Association, Colorado Livestock Association, Idaho Cattle Association, Idaho Wool Growers Association, Montana Stockgrowers Association, Montana Wool Growers Association, Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Sheep and Goat Producers, Nevada Cattlemen's Association, New Mexico Stock Growers' Association, North Dakota Stockmen's Association, North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Oregon Sheep Growers Association, South Dakota Sheep Growers Association, South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, Utah Cattlemen's Association, Utah Wool Growers Association, Washington Cattlemen's Association, Washington State Sheep Producers Association, Wyoming stock Growers Association, Wyoming Wool Growers Association